XXXIV.

ANIMADVERSIONS
ON THE LATE
VINDICATION
OF
Slingsby Bethel Esq;

Wherein the Ancient and Laudable Customs of the

City of LONDON

Are asserted against the scandalous Reflections he has made upon them.

IN A

LETTER

TO THE

LORD MAYOR
AND
Court of Aldermen.

By a Loyal Citizen.

My Lord and Fellow Citizens,

AS it has been the opinion of many worthy Members of our City (since the Election of this Sheriff) that we did very ill to call a Person to that Office from his private station in the Country (tho' not so qualified for this place by the Laws as some others were) so it has been of very great trouble to us to find him not answer either the Design or Honour of such our Election.

'Tis his pleasure to acknowledge he was *getting an Estate by Trade when the Rebellion broke out in* England; and that I suppose fitted him afterwards to bear a part in that blustrous Government, as to have the honour to be nominated a *Steers-man* in that *Committee of Safety*, which had like to have ruined the whole *Commonwealth*.

And yet, 'tis true, a man may be of very ill Principles in 1658. and become a wonderful good man again in 1660. when his beloved Eſtate and ſafety, begins to be call'd in queſtion; which made the pleaſant Fellow, who (walking with a great Lanthorn and Candle lighted at Noon-day, on the 29th. of *May*, on the King's Return) ſaid, *That he had been ſeeking for a* Round-head *all that day, but verily and truly could not find* One *from* Weſtminſter *to* Aldgate.

But to come to the point: Was there ever ſuch a man of Vertue heard of ſince *Adam* (that managed a Trade) who thus confidently avers, *That his converſation has been ſuch, in all his dealings in the World, as to deſerve no reproach from any man upon Earth?* We all well know, that in Traffique and Trade in the World the juſteſt man falls ſeven times a day, as occaſion may offer.

And 'tis to be ſuppoſed, that a man that gets an over-grown Eſtate amongſt us in a way of Trade, cannot get every peny ſo exactly juſt as not to be liable to the reproach of any Tongue whatſoever; ſurely if that had been true which our Sheriff affirms, he had never fallen under the preſent obloquy. But——

Now after all this, ſince you called him forth from his private retirement to the Honour he now enjoys: Behold, (good man) how *he calls in one of the Prophets to teſtifie againſt you, for maliciouſly reproaching, ſcandalizing and making his Office troubleſom to him.* Why now, let any man judge if ever Sheriff (ſince *Richard* the IIIs time) was ſo abuſed by his fellow Citizens: ſurely we have not loſt our manners and due regards to that Honourable Office, have we? Come let us but impartially enquire into the reaſons of theſe things.

Firſt he ſays, *We charge him with being a Papiſt and a Jeſuit; and to colour our Lies call in the Kings Evidence to teſtifie againſt him*; Why truly this could not be ſaid but by an errant *Tory*, or ſome *Maſquerading Fellow*; no loyal, honeſt or ſober Citizen could have offer'd ſuch an affront to his Worſhip; And yet Dr. *Oats* is a ſhrewd man too at gueſſing;— But however, we may ſay there was an odd *Jeſuitical Principle* that actuated in the late times, to do even ſuch things as *Jeſuits would if they could*; and ſo poſſibly there may be *colour* for ſome ſuch tittle tattle among the People at the Election in *Southwark*: *But when Dr.* Oats *comes to Town he will clear this point.*

And for the Election in *Southwark*, I may freely ſay this, That the Commoners did very diſcreetly in Electing two unqueſtionable Loyal Perſons, Capt. *Rich* and Sir *R. How*; And in ſuch Elections there do not want reflections on each Candidate; for I have been told that ſome of the Sheriff's party did beſpatter them too with the Title of *Abhorrers, and Lovers of Arbitrary Power*; ſo that 'tis pretty even on both ſides.

As for what he is accuſed of in *being a Souldier of the late times*, I am apt to believe his Worſhip ſays truth; But what to ſay to that malicious whiſper of *words ſpoken by him at* Hambrough *about the King's Death, I leave that to be decided by Law*; only a man would think our Sheriff no good King's man, ſince he is thus traduced by Perſons of the ſame Rank and Place he dwelt in, and his daily Companions.

But for the next malicious ſlander, of *his being one of thoſe in Vizards that aſſiſted at the Death of His late Majeſty*; I profeſs I wonder any perſon ſhould be ſo confident to accuſe him; for after all the imaginable care and ſcrutiny to find the Truth, (by the Council and the Parliament) upon His Majeſties Return, they never yet could learn who thoſe bloudy Villains were that murthered our dear Sovereign o bleſſed memory; ſo that we might as well have ſaid they were two of *Oliver's* Chaplains, as well as our Sheriff and another perſon in Maſquerade; ſo far I muſt do him all the right I can. As to the ſtory of the *Waterman's coat*, 'tis very odd; ſuch a thing might be; for all men are not in a good humour with Watermen at all times: tho' a Kings Waterman (to ſome conſtitutions) is more obnoxious than a City Waterman. And ſo much for that point too.

But I ſhall now come home to the matter in hand (ſo far as concerns us Citizens) in taking notice of our Sheriff's Vindication.

As

As for his House-keeping, *he does very elaborately let us know that he does not dwell in a Garret, (nor hired Cellar or Pantry I suppose) and that if we had not anger'd him, in choosing Mr.* Pilkington (*a meer Commoner*) *Alderman of the Ward, and gave him the go-by, he would have dwelt in a larger* (Taylor's) *House, and established his Tables, and taken in Officers*, &c. Why truly this is a very good reason for a man to be angry with House-keeping and maintaining any part of the Repute and Honour of the City; and so, for ought I see, we must be contented with it; for there is an honourable thriftiness as well as an honourable prodigal lavish House-keeping, especially among the Magistrates of the City of *London*; and for a man to relieve poor distressed Citizens, and Prisoners, and others in want, when the Law of the Land provides for them otherwise, is a thing so lavish and prodigal, that no Sheriff of *London* ought to evade it, especially when the loss of being Alderman of the Ward and Knighthood is in the case. And then when a man consults the *wholsom Laws against excess of Feasting, which our Sheriff says are the most wholsom*, (nay more wholsom Laws than the 35*th.* of *Eliz.* or 16*th.* of our King ten to one:) why truly no man breathing would feast every day, or endure it in his House.

When I came to one Paragraph, (which is a quotation out of some modern Jesuit) I protest I stood amazed to hear of a *meritorious congruity as well as condignity*; Now where there can be no *congruity*, there ought to be *condignity*, that's most clear; and therefore since we could not agree to make him Alderman of the Ward, 'tis fit he should tell us of it by the way of *condignity*. And so much for a *meritorious congruity*.

But since the preferment is gone, and we have abused him into the bargain, he tells you, *That he cares not a F— for't, for he has tasted more pleasure in a retired Life, than ever to thrust himself into troublesom and lofty places*: which yet to me seems strange; for if he had continued in his state of privacy, and paid the usual Fine to the City, he might have been excused as well as others have been, and consequently undergon no reproach; but some think 'twas a fit time for such men to up and be doing something against Popery and Arbitrary Government, and to preserve Liberty and Property, *&c.* to hinder wholsom Laws made against Protestant Dissenters from being put in execution: Truth is, I must needs say, that we that had so much *throng and sweat to choose him*, ought not to bespatter him at the rate we have done; for *he could not honestly deny us when we chose him so freely*, as he saith; But yet not so freely neither, but that there was tugging and pulling at it, and a world of pudder made by the *Tory* and *Tantivy party*, viz. the folks of the Church of *England*, or the old Protestants, who were generally against it.

Then, in the next place, comes in three or four Paragraphs of Rhetorical Harangues upon the City to shew a further reason of not keeping up the *Port and Grandeur of his Office by generous and publick House-keeping*. Now here lies the point; Can any Lord, Knight, Gentleman, Citizen, Stranger or Foreigner possibly make a meal out of a dish of Sheriffs Paragraphs? Can any of the poor Prisoners in any of the Gaols feed on a Basket of Paragraphs? If they can, much good may they do 'em; I had, for my part, rather dine with my Countrey-man Sheriff *Cornish* (who I hear retains a Western kind of generous Hospitality) than at such a Feast.

The next Paragraph is to display the several Atchievments and common Customs of the City, and (much like *Jordan*'s annual Lord Mayors Shew) tells us what we observe and practice in relation to maintaining the publick Honour and Reputation of the City, but begs your pardon for appearing in them himself on all occasions. First, because my Lord Mayor was not well lately. Secondly, that the *Easter* Sermons were at *Sepulchre*'s, when they should have been at the *Spittle*. And another reason may be too possibly, because a Bishop and a Dean preached; the latter having lately wrote an excellent piece against Protestant Dissenting Brethren.

But now we are at *House-keeping again*, and *we will shew more and stronger reasons for no Feasting than for feasting*: And first, he says, *'Tis of no honour to the* City, *but a great*

reat prejudice and ſcandal to the Government. (Still our Worſhip ſaves our Bacon.)

2dly. *That 'tis cuſtomary to feaſt* Companies *on ſet days, and entertain particular Friends on others;* From which I conclude our Sheriff loves not this formal Feaſting. 3dly. *That the Honour the Sheriff gets by ſuch feaſting is not tantamount to the charge, though two Guinies be given by every Livry-man for his double Treat and Spoon.* I'le aſſure you a very good caution theſe hard times to our City Livry-men: But then, 4*thly.* and beyond all, his Worſhip compares this generous, honourable and hoſpitable way of the Sheriff's Feaſting *to a poor Countrey-wedding, the way being to invite a great many to a great Feaſt,* (which however is beyond ſome Sheriffs too, by your leave,) *on purpoſe to get Money and Houſhold ſtuff for them to begin the World with.* Now how the compariſon will hold in this caſe let any man judge: But then we Livry-men muſt have a care what we do now, for we are forbid to *hearken to either Maſter or Wardens this year,* ſince the Sheriff reſolves not to accept of our Guinies, for the ſeveral reaſons before-mentioned.

Well, in the next place, you *the ſeveral former Sheriffs, that have emulated one another in Feaſting on private days, and out-vy'd each other in ſplendour and gallantry,* (now one would think this ſhould mean the King's being treated at ſupper at ſome of your Houſes not many years ſince,) I ſay you are ſeverely rebuked, and for ought I perceive compared to *the wantons of* Jeruſalem, *who with ſo much fulneſs of Bread and Idleneſs provok'd the heavy Judgments of God to fall upon them.* Now whether your ſort of Feaſting be like theirs, that's the point: for my part I think hoſpitable Houſe-keeping and feeding the poor and needy (as we may ſee at *Lambeth Houſe* every day, and other good Houſes) are very laudable and honourable things, in no wiſe offenſive, to God, to Religion and good Cuſtom; I think far from that riotous Feaſting at *Jeruſalem.* And ſo much for Feaſting without a Meal.

And now who would think that this very ſin of Feaſting ſhould make our Sheriff carefully and tenderly affraid, *leſt an Angel be ſent from Heaven with the Plagues of* Sodom *on our* City *too?* God forbid we ſhould ever requite the Lord ſo for his ſtupendious Goodneſs to us in our late Deliverances from the hands of *Popiſh Conſpiracy* and *Fanatick Rage,* and I am, with his Worſhips favour, and on better grounds and reaſons, more afraid that the Whoredoms, falſe Oaths, rebellious Witchcrafts (that ſtink in the Noſtrils of Heaven) will bring Judgments on us, as in the Caſe of *Korah, Dathan and Abiram,* than Innocent Feaſting, by Sheriffs or other Citizens. And ſo much for this point too at preſent.

But to conclude: Methinks among all the Worthy and Loyal Bookſellers in our City, Mr. Sheriff might have pleaſed to have choſen one out of them to Print and Expoſe his Vindication, rather than *Frank Smith* (his Priſoner for Treaſon, as ſome ſay;) but however, every man to his fancy; for my part I would never have his Name to any thing I ſhall ever write, for this very reaſon, That he never yet Printed any thing (ſave our Worſhips Vindication) but was either Tinkerly Hereſie, or *Seditious* Naked Truth, or *Welſh* Gloſſes on Divine ones: And ſo I wiſh him a ſafe Deliverance, and our Sheriff well out of his troubleſom Office; Taking my leave and ſubſcribe,

Tower Hill
May 2 1681.

My Lord and Fellow Citizens
Your Lordſhips Servant,
And Faithful and Honeſt Brother Citizen,

W. W.

Yaml rough: Printed for the uſe of the *Engliſh* Merchants.